

Thursday, October 8, 1998

Opin

Open letter to VCU students

10-8-98

Hello All,

It comes with great sadness that I must post this. Effective immediately, I, Derek Abbott, officially resign from the post of General Manager of WVCW Radio. I have given this matter a great deal of thought and consideration and feel compelled to go through with my decision. The reasons are many, and I feel that I owe my student workers, if not SMC, some explanation.

This academic year, to include this past summer's semester, has been very trying on me and I have used all of my energy. Add to that, the University administration's (Ed Blanks, Grace Harris, Mass Comm., Gene Trani, Joyce Dodd and others) disinterest in committing to help the radio station financially and resourcefully to a successful move as well as in helping WVCW regain its feet and make the bare necessities in the new location available. I have repeatedly asked for a LAN connection, locks for the doors, an analog phone system for the control board, cubicle space (if not separate offices, which we had before we moved), adequate lighting for our office space, voice mail for our phones and support from others outside SMC and WVCW. WVCW has had to make concessions by giving up resources (like separate offices, locks have been an issue, LAN connection, etc.) ever since the move. I was given no notice in the beginning as to the move, no support from whom-ever owned the project to move WVCW and, therefore, had to take on most of the weight of the project. Wil Johnson was very helpful, but does not speak for the administration, and therefore, cannot provide fiscal and bureaucratic support. WVCW has constantly had its desires for expan-

sion, like FM licensing, shot down, a Real-Audio idea has floundered due to disinterest and, most importantly, student media has no real faculty representation or support in the realm of Faculty Advisor. Now I know that it is supposedly in the works, with, I am told, money earmarked for FM licensing. I am not here to debate the truth in these heresays, but to say that I have used all of my energy fighting an administration that told me in an open meeting last week that VCU "doesn't need a radio station." Student radio is not given any priority. For that matter, neither is, in my mind, other student media.

So it is with sadness that I hang up my hat and walk away from this seeming quagmire. I see no other alternative, nor any reason I should stay. I have made some great and lasting friendships at WVCW, and thank you all for the opportunity to serve you.

For those at WVCW, I heartily suggest that you hold elections for a replacement and do not simply appoint a replacement. After a break, I may be interested in resuming my Monday radio show, if you'll still have me. I will be free to help with a certain amount of "training" for the new person, to get him/her ready for their duties. If anyone has any reasons or me not to leave, I will be open to listen to them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Derek Abbott

General Manager, Asst. Music Director

(RPM)

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